Sharon Jensen Chosen as County's Teacher of The Year

BY COURTNEY GRESSMEN

8-25-99

First, one must have the love to teach. Second, one must have the dedication it takes to teach. Third, one must be willing to take chances on what it takes to be a great teacher.

All of this is exactly what Midway Elementary's second grade teacher Sharon Jensen has. Her dedication and love of teaching over the past 27 years, is what earned Jensen Wasatch County's Teacher of the Year Award.

"This is an honor, it is nice to see all the hard work and dedication by other teachers everywhere too," Jensen said.

Jensen did not always want to be a teacher, at first she was going to be a nurse. But after her husband passed away, Jensen went back to school and took some child development classes.

"My husband was also a teacher, but when I took the child development classes and watched the little children, I decided I wanted to be a teacher. I guess that is where my heart went," Jensen mentioned.

Jensen mentioned that her love for children and teaching them is what kept her teaching for the past 27 years.

She loves teaching second grade, because the children are open to learning anything. And the help of their parents makes teaching the children easier.

Jensen has not always been teaching at Midway Elementary, she was at the Old Central School for three years, until Mr. Besendorfer recruited teachers to the new school.

"I have been through seven different principals and they have all been great to work with," Jensen added.

Besides teaching second graders, Jensen has also taught Art to first through fifth grades.

She has also taught math to third graders and spelling to fifth graders.

Yet second grade has remained her favorite to teach.

When asked about her favorite moments in teaching, Jensen could only laugh because there has been so many.

"I think one of my favorite things about teaching the kids, are their creative writing stories, they can be very creative and it is funny to see what they come up with," Jensen said.

With all of the good moments that come with the job of teaching, Jensen really couldn't think of a time when she had any bad

If she could give any advice to new teachers it would be to love the children.

"Love the children you are working with, if you show that you care about what they are doing, they are going to work their hearts out for you," mentioned Jensen.

Jensen would like to thank all the hard work the parents have done over the years and the children for being open to learning anything.

"My doors are always open to anyone, especially the parents, it is nice to see the parents willing to help," said Jensen.

It's Back to School Time! Kids are in school again at all area schools. Please drive safely and be aware of little people in cross walks and darting in and out from behind cars. These students at J. R. Smith Elementary were excited to get home after their first full day of class.